GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2113
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2015
Amendment to FSSAI Act
Singh Shri Ravneet

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes certain amendments to the Food Safety and Standards (FSSAI) Act, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the time by which the said Act is likely to be amended;

(b) whether the Government has constituted an expert panel in this regard, if so, the details and the composition thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for effective implementation of the said Act and to make it more stringent for punishment to adulterators of food items?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)
(a): The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 is proposed to be amended to remove ambiguity in some provisions of the Act, provide harsher punishment for offences such as adulteration, make the composition of the Food Authority more compact, bring clarity about the process of appointment of members representing States/UTs, appointment and functions of the Chief Executive Officer, specify the powers of the Chairperson, etc.
(b): A Committee had been constituted on 16.12.2014 to undertake a comprehensive review of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. The Committee included representatives of the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Department of Consumer Affairs, Department of Commerce, Department of Legal Affairs, CEO, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, and Food Safety Commissioners of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Orissa. The Committee has since submitted its report.
(c) : The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 is a comprehensive act for regulating manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import of article of food to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has undertaken an exercise to harmonise Indian Standards with Codex Alimentarious Commission, increase the number of Scientific Panels from 8 to 15, increase the frequency of their meetings, and has been interacting with State/UT Governments to undertake regular surveillance, monitoring and sampling of food products and also to undertake periodic inspection and monitoring of major fruit and vegetable markets, soft drinks and ready to serve beverages to check the use of pesticides in food items.
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